9    custom behavior for the field, the custom behavior indicating user-defined operations

10   associated with the field.

1    3.        The data structure of claim 2 wherein the form header includes:

2            a primary key for retrieving the form header and wherein the primary key

3    designates a location of the form header;

4            form flags for specifying the window appearance;

5            form coordinates for specifying the position and size of the window; and

6            a character string for use as a form title.

1    4.        The data structure of claim 2 wherein the description of the field

2    includes:

3            a primary key for retrieving the description, the primary key designating a

4    location of the description;

5            a secondary key for providing an alternative means for retrieving the

6    description, the secondary key designating a location of a unique identifier for the field;

7            a field type;

8            attributes of the field;

9            coordinates of the field; and

10          font characteristics of the field.

1    5.        The data structure of claim 2 wherein the form control procedure

2    includes:

3            a primary key for retrieving the form control procedure, the primary key

4    designating a location of the form control procedure; and

5            a computer code that implements the custom behavior of the field.

1    6.        The data structure of claim 2 wherein the form control procedure

2    returns an indication as to whether standard behavior for the field is to be performed.

7. A method in a computer system for inputting data using a custom form, the computer system having a plurality of field types, each field type having a standard behavior, the method comprising:

providing a description of each field to be displayed on the custom form, the description indicating characteristics of the field for use in displaying the field and in utilizing the field to obtain data;

providing a form control procedure for the custom form, the form control procedure for receiving data directed to a field of the form and an indication of the field to which the data is directed;

displaying the custom form on a display device in accordance with the provided description of each field;

receiving data directed to a field of the displayed custom form;

invoking the provided form control procedure and passing to the form control procedure the received data and an indication of the field to which the data is directed; and

under control of the invoked form control procedure, performing a custom behavior for the field to which the data is directed.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the custom behavior modifies the display of a field other than the field to which the data is directed.

9. The method of claim 7 including:

re-invoking the provided form control procedure and passing to the provided form control procedure an indication of the field to which the data is directed; and

under control of the re-invoked form control procedure, performing further custom behavior for the field to which the data is directed.

10. The method of claim 7 wherein the displaying of the custom form further includes

for each field of the form,

4       invoking the form control procedure and passing to the form control

5  procedure an indication of the field which identifies the field; and

6       under control of the form control procedure, displaying the indicated

7  field.

1       11.    The method of claim 7 including:

2       under control of the invoked form control procedure, returning an indication

3  whether to perform the standard behavior for the field to which the data is directed; and

4       when the returned indication indicates to perform the standard behavior for the

5  field, performing the standard behavior for the field to which the data is directed.

1       12.    A method in a computer system for performing custom processing for

2  a field of a form, the method comprising:

3       receiving an indication of the field;

4       determining whether a custom behavior has been defined for the field; and

5       when a custom behavior has been defined,

6       performing the custom behavior for the field; and

7       returning an indication that the custom behavior has been performed

8  for the field so that a determination whether to perform a standard behavior can be made

9  based on the performance of the custom behavior.

1       13.    The method of claim 12 wherein the returning of the indication further

2  includes returning an indication whether to perform a standard behavior.

1       14.    The method of claim 12 wherein the form has a plurality of fields and

2  the receiving includes receiving an indication of one of the plurality of fields.

1       15.    The method of claim 12 wherein the receiving includes receiving an

2  indication that the custom behavior is that custom behavior to be performed prior to

3  performing any standard behavior.

1        16.     The method of claim 12 wherein the receiving includes receiving an

2   indication that custom behavior is that custom behavior to be performed after performing any

3   standard behavior.

1        17.     The method of claim 12 wherein the receiving includes receiving an

2   indication of data input to the field.

1        18.     The method of claim 12 wherein the receiving includes receiving an

2   indication of data to be displayed in the field.

1        19.     A method in a computer system for displaying a form with a plurality

2   of fields, the method comprising:

3           for each of the fields,

4              invoking a form control procedure passing an indication of the field,

5   the form control procedure for optionally performing a custom behavior for the field prior to

6   performing any standard behavior for the field;

7              receiving an indication from the form control procedure whether to

8   perform a standard behavior for the field;

9              when the received indication indicates to perform a standard behavior,

10   performing the standard behavior for the field; and

11              re-invoking the form control procedure passing an indication of the

12   field, the form control procedure for optionally performing a custom behavior for the field

13   after performing any standard behavior for the field.

1        20.     The method of claim 19 wherein each field has a field type and

2   wherein the standard behavior performed is based on the field type of the field.

1        21.     The method of claim 19 including accessing a form data structure that

2   includes a definition of each field along with the form control procedure.

1           22.     The method of claim 21 including transporting the form data structure

2 so that the form can be displayed on another computer system.

1           23.     The method of claim 19 including when invoking the form control

2 procedure indicating an event which triggered the processing.

1           24.     The method of claim 23 wherein the event is the display of the form.

1           25.     The method of claim 23 wherein the event is input of data into the

2 field.

1           26.     The method of claim 23 wherein the event is input of data into another

2 field.

1           27.     The method of claim 19 including receiving data for each of the fields

2 and transporting the received data of the fields along with a form data structure that includes a

3 description of each field and includes the form control procedure.

1           28.     The method of claim 19 wherein the form control procedure is

2 computer code.

1           29.     A computer-readable medium containing instructions for causing a

2 computer system to perform custom processing field of a form, by:

3           for each field of the form,

4               receiving an identification of the field;

5               determining whether a custom behavior has been defined for the

6 identified field; and

7               when a custom behavior has been defined,

8                   performing the custom behavior for the identified field; and

9                  returning an indication that the custom behavior has been

10   performed for the identified field so that custom processing can be defined and performed for

11   each field of the form.

1              30.      The computer-readable medium of claim 29 wherein the returning of

2   the indication further includes returning an indication whether to perform a standard behavior.

1              31.      The computer-readable medium of claim 29 wherein the receiving

2   includes receiving an indication that the custom behavior is that custom behavior to be

3   performed prior to performing any standard behavior.

1              32.      The computer-readable medium of claim 29 wherein the receiving

2   includes receiving an indication that custom behavior is that custom behavior to be performed

3   after performing any standard behavior.

1              33.      A computer system for displaying a form with a plurality of fields,

2   comprising:

3              a first component for invoking a form control procedure passing an indication

4   of one of the plurality of fields, the form control procedure for optionally performing a

5   custom behavior for the indicated field prior to performing any standard behavior for the

6   indicated field;

7              a second component for receiving an indication from the form control

8   procedure whether to perform a standard behavior for the indicated field and performs the

9   standard behavior for the indicated field based on the received indication; and

10           a third component for invoking the form control procedure passing an

11   indication of the one of the plurality of fields, the form control procedure for optionally

12   performing a custom behavior for the indicated field after performing any standard behavior

13   for the indicated field.

1              34.      The computer system of claim 33 wherein each field has a field type

2   and wherein the standard behavior performed is based on the field type of the field.

35.     The computer system of claim 33 including a component for accessing a form data structure that includes a definition of each field along with the form control procedure.

36.     The computer system of claim 35 including a component for transporting the form data structure so that the form can be displayed on another computer system.

37.     The computer system of claim 33 including, when invoking the forms control procedure, indicating an event which triggered the invoking.

38.     A method in a computer system for generating a form data structure for a form, the method comprising:

        storing a form header containing a description of a window into which fields of the form are to be displayed;

        for each of a plurality of field, storing a description of the field; and

        storing a form control procedure for receiving an indication of an event and for performing a custom behavior for one of the plurality of fields based on the indicated event.

39.     The method of claim 38 wherein the form control procedure is further for returning an indication as to whether a standard behavior for the one of the plurality of fields is to be performed.

40.     The method of claim 38 wherein the description of a field includes a field type and a location within the form for display of the field.

41.     The method of claim 38 wherein the form control procedure is for performing a custom behavior prior to performing any standard behavior.